

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT:CIVAIR: BRANIFF'S PANAMA STOP REQUIREMENT

REF: MEXICO 13549

1. IN VIEW OF CENDEJAS' APPARENT UNRESPONSIVENESS TO OUR
PRESENTATION ON WHY THE MANDATORY STOP AT PANAMA SHOULD BE
RESCINDED, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE EMBASSY MAKE AN-
OTHER EFFORT, THIS TIME AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. IT IS
ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE CHARGE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR
CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT,
MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SINCE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND THE MEXICAN FOREIGN
MINISTER SIGNED THE MARCH 1978 BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT
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AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE EVERY
EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW ROUTE SCHEDULES. THE AMBASSADOR
HAS PERSONALLY TAKEN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE AVIATION
FIELD, AND HAS INTERVENED WITH THE US AUTHORITIES TO BE AS
FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE.

B. IN RECENT WEEKS, SEVERAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROUTE SCHEDULES. THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: TREATMENT BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OF AIRLINE CAPACITY CHANGES; DESIGNATION OF AIRLINES FOR SCHEDULED

ALL-CARGO SERVICES; AND MOST RECENTLY, THE IMPOSITION BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ON BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES OF A MANDATORY STOP REQUIREMENT AT PANAMA.

C. WHILE THE FIRST TWO ISSUES STEM FROM DIFFERING POLICIES AND THEREFORE CLEARLY REQUIRE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US, THE BRANIFF MANDATORY STOP REQUIREMENT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE RECENT AGREEMENT. MY EMBASSY HAS ALREADY DESCRIBED THE US POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IN A DIPLOMATIC NOTE. I THEREFORE URGE YOU TO REMOVE THE PRESENT REQUIREMENT COMPELLING BRANIFF TO MAKE A MANDATORY STOP IN PANAMA.

D. IF THIS REQUIREMENT IS PERMITTED TO CONTINUE, I AND THE AMBASSADOR WOULD PERSONALLY FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO INFLUENCE THE APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES TO CONTINUE TO TAKE EXPEDITIOUS AND FAVORABLE ACTIONS REGARDING MEXICAN AIRLINES. THIS BRANIFF ISSUE COULD BECOME AN IRRITANT IN OUR BILATERAL AVIATION RELATIONS BY BECOMING A PRETEXT FOR CHARGES OF MEXICAN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT. WERE THIS TO HAPPEN, THE ATMOSPHERE COULD BECOME MORE RESTRICTIVE AND IT WOULD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO EXPAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH SIDES. FOR EXAMPLE, MEXICANA HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST TO ADD ORLANDO TO ITS ROUTE SCHEDULE AND THE US AUTHORITIES ARE INCLINED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THIS APPLICATION. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO THIS IF THE MEXICAN SIDE WERE TO BE CONSIDERED AT VIOLATING THE AGREEMENT.

E. US OFFICIALS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AT AN EARLY DATE SUCH QUESTIONS AS ALL-CARGO SERVICES AND THE CAPACITY PROCEDURES. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE URGE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT SO RECENTLY SIGNED. CHRISTOPHER

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